

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following is a complete, marked-up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis, underlined text indicating insertions, and strike through and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A spring mattress with longitudinal strings, the spring mattress comprising:

a plurality of interconnected coil springs enclosed in covers, and

a plurality of ~~such~~ parallel strings ~~being~~ arranged side by side and interconnected by a surface attachment between abutting surfaces,

wherein a slit is provided between at least two coil springs located adjacent to one another within the same string, the slit allowing~~which slit allows~~ an increased interjacent separation distance to be formed between said adjacent coil springs.

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ spring mattress as claimed in claim 1, wherein the slit is provided ~~in such manner that it~~ such that the slit is completely enclosed between ~~the~~ an upper and ~~the~~ a lower part of the string.

3. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ spring mattress as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~slits are~~ the slit is provided between ~~essentially~~ all adjacent coil springs in ~~essentially~~ all the strings arranged in parallel.

4. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ spring mattress as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~slits are~~ the slit is provided only between some of ~~all~~ the adjacent coil

springs of at least one string ~~some of the strings~~ to obtain zones with different properties across the mattress.

5. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ spring mattress as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~cover material is~~ covers are joined together on both sides along the slit to close the covers along the slit.

6. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ spring mattress as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surface attachment ~~adapted~~ configured to interconnect the strings ~~comprises~~ includes at least one of gluing and welding.

7. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ spring mattress as claimed in claim 1, wherein the separation distance exceeds about 10% of the diameter of the largest ~~one of the spiral turns~~ spiral turn of the adjacent coil springs, ~~and preferably exceeds 15% and most preferably exceeds 20%.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ spring mattress as claimed in claim 1, wherein the separation distance exceeds 1 cm.

9. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ spring mattress as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~it~~ a spring density of the spring mattress along a direction of slits in a string is less than 15 springs per meter ~~has a density of springs in the string direction, in strings in which slits are provided, of less than 15 springs per meter, and preferably less than 13 springs per meter.~~

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ spring mattress as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~cover is~~ covers are made from a textile fabric that can be

welded~~preferably weldable textile fabric.~~

11. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a spring mattress,  
the method comprising the steps of:

arranging coil springs enclosed in covers in longitudinal strings~~in such manner that they are enclosed in covers in longitudinal strings~~, and

interconnecting a plurality of parallel strings side by side by a surface attachment between abutting surfaces, and

~~wherein the further step of providing a slit between at least two coil springs located adjacent to one another within the same string, which slit~~ such that the slit allows an increased interjacent separation distance to be formed between ~~these the~~ adjacent coil springs.

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the ~~at least one slit is provided in such manner that it~~ such that the slit is completely enclosed between the ~~an~~ upper and the ~~a~~ lower part of the string.

13. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising joining together ~~of the a~~ cover material on both sides along the slit to close the covers along the slit, wherein the cover material is joined before providing the slit~~which joining together is preferably provided before providing the slit.~~

14. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method as claimed in claim 11, wherein ~~interconnecting of a the~~ plurality of parallel strings are interconnected side by side by at least one of gluing and welding~~by surface attachment between abutting surfaces is achieved by gluing and/or welding.~~

15. (Currently Amended) A-The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein ~~arranging the coil springs further comprises the step of providing coil springs in such manner that they are enclosed in covers in longitudinal strings comprises the partial steps of~~

arranging a strip of a cover material ~~so~~ such that it is folded over the coil springs arranged in succession therebetween,

providing a longitudinal joining line at the open end of the folded strip ~~thus folded~~, and

arranging, before or after providing the longitudinal joining line, at least one transverse joining line between adjacent pair of coil springs ~~in each pair of springs~~.

16. (Currently Amended) A-The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the slit between adjacently located coil springs is provided at the same time as or directly after arranging the at least one transverse joining line ~~step of providing slits between springs located adjacent to one another within the same string is carried out at the same time as, or directly after, the arranging of the at least one transverse joining line between said springs.~~

17. (Currently Amended) A-An apparatus for manufacturing a spring mattress, the apparatus comprising:

means for arranging coil springs such that the coil springs are enclosed in covers in longitudinal strings, and

means for interconnecting a plurality of parallel strings side by side by surface attachment between abutting surfaces,

wherein it ~~the apparatus~~ further comprises ~~includes~~ means for providing a slit between at least two coil springs located adjacent to one another

within ~~the a~~ same string, ~~which~~ such that the slit allows an increased interjacent separation distance to be formed between ~~these the~~ adjacent coil springs.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~An The~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the means for providing a ~~the~~ slit between at least two coil springs located adjacent to one another within the same string ~~is adapted are configured~~ to arrange the slit such that the slit ~~so that it~~ is completely enclosed between ~~the an~~ upper and ~~the a~~ lower part of the string.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~An The~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, further comprising means for joining together ~~the a~~ cover material on both sides along the slit, to close the covers along the slit.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~An The~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the means for interconnecting a plurality of parallel strings side by side by surface attachment between abutting surfaces ~~is adapted are configured~~ to effect said interconnection by at least one of gluing and welding ~~and/or welding~~.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the means for arranging the coil springs comprise ~~in such manner that they are enclosed in covers in longitudinal strings comprises~~

means for arranging a strip of a cover material so that ~~it the~~ cover material is folded over the coil springs arranged in succession therebetween,

means for arranging a longitudinal joining line at ~~the an~~ open end of the folded strip ~~thus folded~~, and

means for arranging at least one transverse joining line between each pair of adjacent springs.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~ The apparatus as claimed in ~~claim 17~~ claim 21, wherein the means for arranging the ~~at least one providing the slit~~ is a cutting tool ~~configured~~ arranged to be moveable towards to move in a direction of the cover material.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~ The apparatus as claimed in ~~claim 22~~ claim 21, wherein the cutting tool is arranged adjacent to the means for arranging the at least one transverse joining line between each adjacent pair of springs in each pair of springs and wherein the cutting tool is configured ~~adapted~~ to operate jointly with the means for arranging the at least one transverse joining linesaid means.

24. (New) The spring mattress as claimed in claim 1, wherein the separation distance exceeds about 15% of the diameter of the largest spiral turn of the adjacent coil springs.

25. (New) The spring mattress as claimed in claim 1, wherein the separation distance exceeds about 20% of the diameter of the largest spiral turn of the adjacent coil springs.

26. (New) The spring mattress as claimed in claim 1, wherein a spring density of the spring mattress along a direction of slits in a string is less than 13 springs per meter.

\*\*\* END CLAIM LISTING \*\*\*